

Credit 101: What's It All About?

It's important to establish and maintain positive credit, whether you're just starting out or planning for retirement. But most people only have a vague understanding of what that actually entails. Add the onslaught of identity theft to the mix and you have a recipe for disaster. Here are some tips, tricks and techniques you should understand and adhere to:

1. *Check your Credit Annually.* Gone are the days of phone calls and snail mail letters to various credit bureaus. Thankfully the Internet age has made credit monitoring - and correction - extremely easy. All three credit bureaus, TransUnion, Experian and Equifax, offer a free annual credit report through annualcreditreport.com. So request yours and review it for inaccuracies. Find something that looks wrong? Make corrections immediately - online.
2. *Improve Your Score.* What looks good to creditors isn't always logical. For instance, if you have no credit cards or debt, paying everything diligently in cash, you may have low marks. Why? New creditors can't see a firm repayment history. To develop noteworthy credit and ensure your chances of getting that hot car loan you want so badly: 1.) Start building your credit when you're young; 2.) Pay your bills on time - all the time, 3.) Keep your credit debt to a manageable level for your income, 4.) Close accounts you don't need because all available credit adds up to potential debt in a lender's eye; 5.) Stay comfortably under your cards' credit limit; 6.) Don't apply for a lot of credit in a short amount of time; and, 7.) Establish good payment histories with various credit types (not just one), from retail cards to bank cards and installment debt like car or mortgage loans.
3. *Guard Against Identity Theft.* Yes, it's a real problem, and anyone who thinks it couldn't happen to them is wrong. Be smart; review your credit statements, check your credit reports annually, never pre-print your social security or driver's license number on your checks, shred confidential tax and financial documents and never give out personal information on the phone or in an email. If you see something suspicious, notify your creditor immediately.

Be conscientious, stay smart and guard your information. Your efforts will pay off well.

For more great articles on this subject, come back to Vasrue.com. Articles are published weekly on Travel, Real-Estate, E-business, Credit and a host of other great topics.

In an effort to support other webmasters, Vasrue.com is offering each article through RSS feed free of charge. Now newspapers, ezines, magazines and independent websites can effortlessly integrate fresh, captivating content in no time. Each article is available for PDF download, RSS feed or browser printing.

Copyright© 2006 Vasrue.com. All Rights Reserved. Materials may not be sold, modified, or altered without written permission from Vasrue.com. Articles may not be used within unsolicited emails or spam. This Article may be reproduced, distributed, published, transmitted and/or publicly displayed in whole or in part, as long as the article and resource box remain unchanged.